

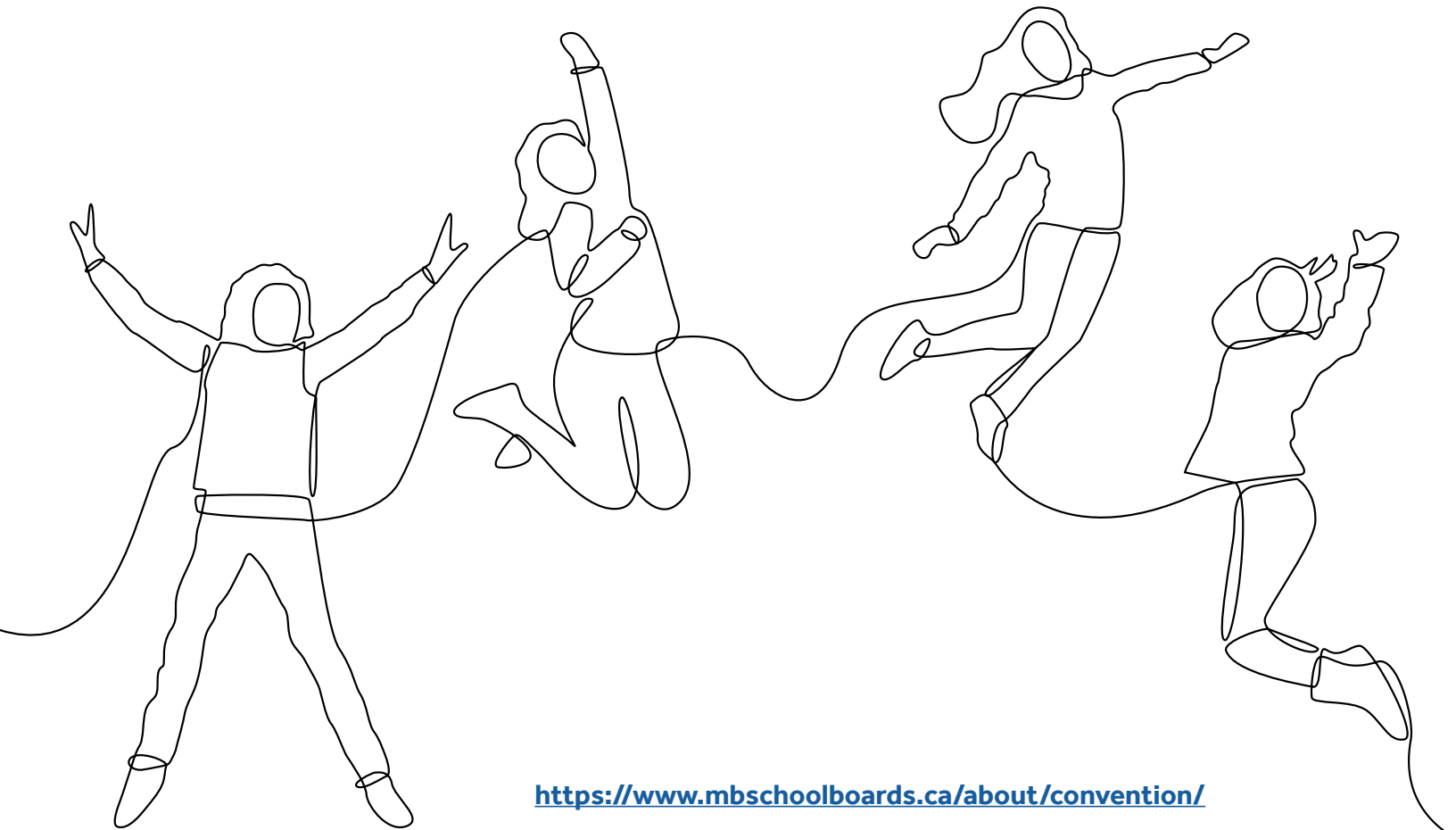


59th Annual Convention



March 16 – 17, 2023, Delta Winnipeg

2023 Resolutions and Special Business



<https://www.mbschoolboards.ca/about/convention/>

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NOTICE OF MOTION

The Chair of the MSBA Resolutions and Policy Committee shall move or cause to be moved a motion regarding adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the resolution process, as follows, at the MSBA Annual General Meeting:

2023 RULES OF PROCEDURE

Process:

1. All resolution proceedings shall be governed by these rules of procedure, the MSBA Act, and the MSBA By-Laws. In the event of any conflict, the provisions of the MSBA Act and the MSBA By-Laws shall prevail. Where any of the aforementioned identified instruments are silent, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, shall apply.
2. The resolution process shall be conducted by a "Resolutions Chair", referred to in the following sections as the "Chair".
3. The Chair will advise the membership of the disposition of emergent resolutions submitted to the MSBA Executive and request the assembly's consideration of those late resolutions not adopted by the Executive.
4. Resolutions shall be dealt with in the following order:
 - (a) consideration of new resolutions in the order listed in the resolutions booklet and any emergent resolutions adopted by the MSBA Executive at the end of the section in which the resolution is assigned (point #3 above);
 - (b) consideration of emergent resolutions not adopted by the MSBA Executive but approved by the assembly for debate;
 - (c) any resolution(s) for reconsideration in the order of receipt by the Chair (point #25).
5. Should any resolution be identified as a particular concern of the assembly, that resolution may be brought forward in the convention proceedings for discussion and debate by majority consent of the assembly. A motion requesting this action must be moved and seconded.
6. Proposed resolutions shall be read and moved by members of the Resolutions and Policy Committee and the Chair shall immediately ask for a seconder who may speak to the proposed resolution and close debate.

Resolutions:

7. Resolutions submitted by any member board in the period between the deadline for receipt of regular resolutions and the final Executive meeting preceding the annual general meeting will be considered emergent resolutions.

The Executive will assess emergent resolutions to determine whether the issue addressed was evident prior to the deadline for submission of regular resolutions. Where the Executive deems the resolution to be truly emergent in nature, it will be included among those for consideration at the annual general meeting.

Any emergent resolution not adopted by the MSBA Executive will require a separate motion to be added to the annual general meeting agenda and must be moved and seconded and receive the support of not less than two-thirds of the delegates present and voting in order to be considered.

2023 Rules of Procedure, cont'd....

8. Any resolution sponsored by the provincial executive will be deemed to be a regular resolution, whether or not it meets the timeline outlined above.
9. Extraordinary resolutions arising out of the business of the annual general meeting may be considered if consideration is supported by a two-thirds majority of voting trustees.

Debate:

10. As soon as a proposed resolution has been moved and seconded, the Chair will call upon the seconder to explain the proposed resolution.
11. The Chair will then ask if any delegate wishes to speak against the proposed resolution. If no delegate so indicates, the seconder will be invited to close debate and the question will be called.
12. Once any delegate speaks in opposition to the proposed resolution, debate shall begin and continue until the question is called in the usual manner. The seconder will have the right to be the final speaker in the debate.
13. Each delegate wishing to speak to a resolution must first be formally recognized by the Chair and shall announce their name and school division/district before speaking to the resolution to be debated.
14. No delegate shall speak to a resolution more than once, except the seconder of the resolution, and debate shall be limited to three (3) minutes unless permission for an additional three (3) minutes is granted by general consent of the assembly.
15. Associate members may, at the discretion of the Chair, speak on a point of information but may not enter into the debate, nor may they move, second, or vote on a resolution.

Voting:

16. Member school boards who have at least one trustee in attendance at the Annual Convention shall be eligible to vote, via board ballots, on by-laws and by-law amendments, and the appointment of the auditors. Trustees from member boards who are registered Convention delegates are voting delegates eligible to vote on all resolutions other than those requiring board ballots, as described above.
17. A quorum shall consist of not less than 100 voting delegates present virtually and/or in person at the time the vote is called on any motion before the assembly.
18. The Resolutions and Policy Committee [By-Law #5, (10)] shall be responsible to know the voting strength at all times on the convention floor, and shall be responsible for ruling on any disputes over the issuance of voting cards and ballot books.
19. All voting shall be by show of hands (using the authorized voting cards) unless:
 - (a) the Chair, in their discretion, calls for a standing vote before announcing the results of a vote by show of hands, or
 - (b) immediately after the result has been announced by the Chair, one delegate calls for a standing vote.

Voting at virtual meetings shall be by a roll-call vote of each school board (for board ballot votes) or by an electronic voting platform approved by the Executive for regular resolutions.

2023 Rules of Procedure, cont'd....

20. A favourable vote of not less than two thirds of the board ballots cast shall be required to approve any amendments/changes to the By-Laws or MSBA Act. All other questions shall be decided by majority vote of those delegates present and voting unless otherwise specified in these rules of procedure.

Amendments:

21. A delegate may, at any time during the debate on a resolution, move an amendment, providing it is relevant to and deals with the same subject matter as the original resolution. Amendments must be seconded.
22. The Chair has the prerogative to divide a question into two or more questions so as to allow for a separate vote on any particular point or points, if the Chair deems that the division of the question will facilitate debate.
23. No more than one amendment and one amendment to the amendment (sub-amendment) will be accepted by the Chair at any one time.
24. The Chair may, in their discretion, require that any amendment to a resolution be submitted in writing.

Reconsideration:

25. A written notice of motion to reconsider a vote on the resolution shall be presented to the Chair, and may only be submitted by a delegate who originally supported the vote on that particular resolution. Upon validation of the request for reconsideration, the Chair shall immediately announce that a motion to reconsider will be presented after all other convention resolutions have been considered in accordance with [Section 4 (c)] above.

AUDITOR AND FINANCIALS

RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTSA-01-23 (MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that the audited financial statements for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2022 be received.

The members of the Manitoba School Boards Association are hereby notified that the following resolution constitutes special business to be transacted pursuant to the Corporations Act.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORA-02-23 (MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that KPMG Chartered Accountants be re-appointed as the Manitoba School Boards Association auditors for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2023.

Notice:

In keeping with applicable provisions under *The Corporations Act*, all members are advised that the above motion constitutes special business, and shall be transacted during the forthcoming annual convention and annual general meeting of the Manitoba School Boards Association, to be held on Friday, March 17, 2023 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (Central Daylight Time).

Rationale:

The motion to appoint an auditor is now featured as part of the annual resolutions process, being an Executive Resolution. By including this motion under the annual resolutions process, it is intended that feedback and input will be obtained from the membership before each annual convention takes place.

It is important to clarify that sections 156(3) and 158(1) of *The Corporations Act* provide clear guidance in the event that membership is not able to come to a decision regarding this motion. Section 156(3) provides that, notwithstanding that shareholders (read "*members*") may not have appointed an auditor at an annual meeting, "the incumbent auditor continues in office until his successor is appointed". Section 158(1) further provides for continuance in office of the incumbent auditor, until there is a valid appointment of a successor by member boards or the auditor resigns, dies or is removed, in accordance with the Corporations Act.

Finally, all boards should be aware that, once this resolution does in fact appear before the annual convention in March 2023, the present motion shall be considered and voted on by the eligible and lawful membership of the association through board ballot, consistent with section 15(b) of *The Manitoba School Boards Association Act*.

If members have any questions on this motion in advance of the MSBA December 2022 regional meetings or the March 2023 annual convention, we request that all such communications be routed through Board Chairpersons to Josh Watt, MSBA Executive Director, by telephone at: (204) 594-5162 or by email at: jwatt@mbschoolboards.ca.

FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

EDUCATION FUNDING MODEL..... FFM-01-23

(Region 1)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the provincial government to provide clarity in the new funding model for education.

Rationale:

Within the last year, the provincial government has met with stakeholders to discuss potential changes to the current education funding model, but has not provided school divisions with concrete details regarding specifics of the funding model and the impact of the new funding model on school division budget deliberations for the 2023-2024 school year.

This resolution has been deemed a request for action and is time limited to three years or the completion of the requested action.

SPECIAL LEVY RESTRICTIONS..... FFM-02-23

(Region 2)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the provincial government to remove the restrictions on the use of the education special levy to enable school divisions to respond to local needs and unexpected expenses.

Rationale:

Although the taxation authority of Manitoba school boards is still codified in the Public Schools act, the provincial government has eliminated school divisions' ability to raise revenue since 2018 by limiting the increase in the special requirement. These directives were a precursor to the ill-fated Bill 64 legislation. With this restriction on taxation remaining in place, elected school boards are now faced with financial uncertainty each budget year, unable to confidently make efficient long term strategic plans while relying on an unpredictable stream of provincial funding. Depending solely on provincial funding leaves school divisions with no avenue to respond to unexpected expenses, inflationary pressures and emerging student requirements. Ultimately, this means that school boards are forced to reduce the programs, supports, and services that they provide to students because they aren't able to raise any additional funds from their ratepayers, even in the circumstance that ratepayers would prioritize maintaining local education services over reducing taxes.

This resolution has been deemed a request for action and is time limited to three years or the completion of the requested action.

MSBA Policy Reference

Funding and Financial Matters

Education is a public responsibility. In Manitoba, that responsibility is shared between the provincial government and school boards. The province has constitutional authority for k-12 education, but it has delegated responsibility for the school system's day-to-day operations to school boards. This model of shared responsibility benefits Manitoba by ensuring a high standard of education across the province, by providing greater equity of educational opportunity, and by providing local communities with distinctive programs

and services that meet their own self-identified needs. Education funding—the overall level of support and the mechanisms through which that support is distributed—is a critical component of a strong public school system. School boards believe that the following are key elements of an effective education-funding model.

Operational funding

- The provincial government should provide the majority of funds (greater than or equal to 80%) required to operate public schools in accordance with all legislation, regulation, and government mandates or directives.
- Elected school boards must have the authority to raise the balance of required operational funds through the local education property tax levy.
- Limitations, restrictions or conditions on allocation of school division budgets should be minimal, and clearly communicated at the time of the annual provincial funding announcement.
- Provincial funding of education should come primarily in the form of block or per pupil grants rather than categorical grants, to provide school divisions with the maximum flexibility in allocating resources.
- The education funding formula should contain equalization measures and other components to ensure equity of opportunity for students regardless of circumstances or location, and fairness for taxpayers in low-assessment divisions.
- The schedule of operational advances should provide funding to school divisions on a twelve-month basis.

Capital funding

- The provincial government should fully fund new capital construction and major renovations to a level that accurately reflects current construction costs.
- The capital support formula must take into account the inclusion of spaces or facilities necessitated as the result of new mandates or pedagogical developments.
- Capital funding should be allocated objectively based on need, and school boards should be informed regularly on the status of divisional funding requests.

Other financial matters

- Relevant provincial departments (i.e. health) should support financially the delivery of non- educational services to children in schools.
- The purchase of supplies and services required by the public school system should be exempt from consumption taxes levied by federal, provincial, or municipal levels of government.
- All school division property should be exempt from municipal property taxes or special services levies.

FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS FFM-03-23
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association amend the second bullet under Other financial matters within the Funding and Financial Matters policy statement:

- The purchase of supplies and services required by the public school system should be exempt from ~~consumption~~ **fees and taxes** levied by federal, provincial, or municipal levels of government.

Rationale:

At its meeting of January 20, 2023, Resolutions and Policy Committee convened for the purpose of reviewing MSBA’s standing consolidated policy statements. The above amendment to the

consolidated policy statement on “funding and financial matters” was recommended by the Committee in order to ensure that the statement remains responsive to all future scenarios and circumstances involving both fees as well as taxes.

EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

EDUCATION PROGRAMMING EP-01-23

(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association amend the third bullet under the Education Programming policy statement:

- make available high-quality **academic**, technical, vocational, ~~and~~ career **and other** programming, and to the extent possible, ensure such offerings align with post-secondary requirements in technical, vocational **and other** fields of study.

Rationale:

At its meeting of January 20, 2023, Resolutions and Policy Committee convened for the purpose of reviewing MSBA’s standing consolidated policy statements. The above amendment to the consolidated policy statement on “education programming” was recommended by the Committee in order to ensure that the statement incorporates due recognition and promotion of dual credit programming and opportunities at the secondary school level, as per Resolution EP-01-20 pertaining to “dual credit recognition”, which resolution is now archived.

HUMAN RESOURCES

HUMAN RESOURCES..... HR-01-23

(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association amend the first and third bullets under the Human Resources policy statement:

- collective bargaining ~~occurs~~ **is informed by** at the local level between individual school boards and their respective ~~teacher associations and other unionized groups~~ **employee representatives.**
- arbitrators consider community economic conditions **and school boards' ability to pay** when awarding settlements.

Rationale:

At its meeting of January 20, 2023, Resolutions and Policy Committee convened for the purpose of reviewing MSBA's standing consolidated policy statements. The above amendment to the consolidated policy statement on "human resources" was recommended by the Committee in order to ensure that the statement reflects appropriate revised nuance in respect of the Association's longstanding policy on protection of local collective bargaining in view of the proclamation by the Manitoba Government (January, 2022) of Bill 45, which established a single provincial collective bargaining table for non-Francophone instructional staff.

TRANSPORTATION

BUS DRIVER TRAINING CENTRES.....T-01-23

(Region 1)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Manitoba School Boards Association lobby Manitoba Public Insurance to increase the availability of rural testing sites to support bus driver certification.

Rationale:

Mountain View School Division and several other rural school divisions are experiencing bus driver shortages which have resulted in rural bus route cancellations. (stats can be provided as well to substantiate the request on the number of routes canceled - 2021/22 as well as year to date; and also information on wait times due to MPI service disruptions).

This resolution has been deemed a request for action and is time limited to three years or the completion of the requested action.

FACILITIES AND MATERIALS

BROADBAND AND CELLULAR CONNECTIVITYFM-01-23

(Region 1)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Manitoba School Boards Association strengthen its Facilities and Materials Policy by identifying that broadband internet connectivity and cellular access are essential to Manitoba students, staff, and families.

Furthermore, that the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the Provincial Government on behalf of all Manitoba school divisions and that the Canadian School Boards Association, on behalf of all school board associations, lobby the Federal Government for immediate initiatives to increase accessibility and the quality of broadband internet connectivity and cellular coverage and reduce costs of internet access for students, staff and families.

Rationale:

Included in the rationale would be statements about how broadband internet connectivity and cellular access are essential not only for participation in public education but also for rural and Indigenous communities and households. It should be accessible and affordable for all.

- The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated inequities in connectivity gaps and highlighted the need for immediate responses in remote learning to ensure continuity in the delivery of public education.

EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

MANITOBA REMOTE LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE EP-01-23

(Lord Selkirk S.D.)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Manitoba School Boards Association lobby Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning to continue the operation of the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre (MRLSC) to support students, families and local school divisions in providing a remote learning option for students in Grades K-8.

Rationale:

The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre (MRLSC) currently supports just over 190 students in grades K-8 and has a waitlist that is accessed weekly. The student population that is supported is equivalent to a full-sized school and represents students from 26 school divisions and one funded independent school.

The MRLSC has a full complement of staff to support the remote online learners – the online classroom teachers, music, Phys Ed, Numeracy/Literacy support, Learning support, Guidance, Social Worker/Family support, Educational Assistants, Secretary and school Principal.

While attending MRLSC, students are engaged with their school community and have an opportunity to participate in grade appropriate clubs of varying interests from knitting to Minecraft and so on (20+)! There have been 161 student engagements from students for these clubs outside of regular classes. 83% of students have accessed these clubs outside of regular instruction time.

In keeping with the province's most recent ad campaign regarding student attendance and engagement, attendance rates for MRLSC are consistently above the provincial average: December 2022 to February 2023 ranged from 95-98% most weeks.

The 2022/23 Budget for MRLSC was set for \$3 million and the school is on course to finish the school year below budget, resulting in a cost savings for the province. Many students that attend MRLSC require additional supports when they attend traditional brick and mortar schools. Currently these additional supports are provided by the families who support their students at home while attending remote learning. Once these students begin to transition back into their home school, school divisions will be required to provide educational assistants, transportation, clinicians and technical support.

The MRLSC was built upon the Manitoba Remote Learning Framework, December 2020 "ALL STUDENTS deserve to feel a sense of belonging..." and goes on, "A provincial framework outlining foundational beliefs and guiding practices for the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre has been created to help build common understandings and support the implementation of evidence-based practices for online learning and teaching.

Included are practical strategies for a) establishing a sense of belonging and community in an online environment b) increasing student efficacy and teacher efficacy for online learning c) increasing student ability to be independent, self-regulated learners

These principles apply to all students of all abilities and reflect Manitoba's Philosophy of Inclusion, which states: "Inclusion is a way of thinking and acting that allows every individual to feel accepted, valued, and safe. An inclusive community consciously evolves to meet the changing needs of its members. Through recognition and support, an inclusive community provides meaningful involvement and equal access to the benefits of citizenship." (www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/aep/inclusion.html.)"

- Manitoba Remote Learning Framework, December 2020

https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/dl/remote_framework.html

MRLSC removes barriers and provides accessibility to education for students across Manitoba who may have additional physical/medical, social-emotional needs. Transitioning back to a traditional classroom will be incredibly challenging in many student cases, resulting in a drop of attendance, and some may be at risk to not return at all. As per the Manitoba Government Accessibility Plan and Policy, "*The government is also committed to the principle of inclusion, which involves the prevention and removal of barriers to maintain dignity and equity for all people.*" This very plan indicates one priority area being Enhanced Training and Education.

[\(https://accessibilitymb.ca/\)](https://accessibilitymb.ca/)

Presently there are approximately 30-40 parents participating in a MRLSC Parent Advisory Council that are lobbying the Province to maintain the MRLSC. We are asking MSBA to lobby the government so that the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre continue for the 2023/24 school year and BEYOND to avoid disruption for these K-8 students.

EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING EO-01-23 (Region 1)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the provincial government for additional seats in post-secondary education programs and minimize administrative barriers for professionals from outside of Manitoba to access their training and certification.

This resolution has been deemed a request for action and is time limited to three years or the completion of the requested action.

CHILD NUTRITION COUNCIL OF MANITOBA FUNDING EO-02-23 (Lord Selkirk S.D.)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba with sufficient and sustained funding to support meal and snack programs in all Manitoba schools that have identified a need for a meal and/or snack program.

Rationale:

The provincial government this past September has increased funding to the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba that has allowed the Council to increase funding to school meal and snack programs from just under 10% to 20% of their calculated food costs. Currently, CNCM provides funding and support to just over 300 schools, with some of these schools being located in First Nation communities. Therefore, of the 700 public schools in Manitoba, less than half receive funding and support from CNCM for their meal or snack program.

The schools that receive grant funding in Manitoba operate programs that are unique to their school environment. Most offer a combination of either a breakfast, lunch or snack program, using various service models such as in the classroom, breakfast room, or grab and go.

If the government would fund all public schools in Manitoba even for one meal program per day the funding would need to be increased substantially.

In the [Federal Budget 2022](#) (Chapter 8, page 190), a statement was included about school food: *Over the next year, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development will work with provinces, territories, municipalities, Indigenous partners, and stakeholders to develop a National School Food Policy and to explore how more Canadian children can receive nutritious food at school.* As of yet, no funds have been allocated. The Coalition for Healthy School Food coordinates advocacy in this regard across Canada.

Research shows there are [many far reaching benefits](#) of implementing meal and snack programs in schools, including positive impacts on physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, as well as contributing to improved educational outcomes, development of food literacy skills and helping students foster positive relationships with food. Recently, the provincial government announced a new initiative to implement a comprehensive student attendance policy. It is well documented that nutrition programs in schools improve student engagement, attendance and progress. By substantially increasing the financial support for school meal and snack programs, the Government of Manitoba would surely be on track to ensure improved student attendance.

Many schools in Manitoba are purchasing food to be made available to children throughout the day. This is paid for by the schools and more often than not purchased by school personnel out of their own pockets.

Families also face added pressure if their children attend schools that follow the Balanced School Day and are required to send two lunches or snacks, when they have enough difficulty in providing one. In addition, if their school charges for lunchtime supervision, this can be a barrier for many students to remain at school during lunch, which in turn can decrease their access to food and full day attendance.

And finally, the money spent on school meal and snack programs in Manitoba schools is preventative and must be considered as a sound financial investment. An investment in kids NOW, that is a fraction of what potential health and wellness costs will be in the future.

EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS EO-03-23
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Manitoba School Boards Association amend the existing policy statement on External Organizations with the following:

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that opportunities to advance school board, pupil and community interests through public education is furthered through meaningful and collaborative partnerships. To this end, the Association seeks to:

- **itself undertake and encourage all member school boards to engage with community members, organizations and other partners whose mutual interest is vested in the ethical and altruistic provision or promotion educational opportunities for the benefit of students and school staff;**
- **support organizations whose aims and objectives align with those of the association and its members;**
- **promote continuing dialogue and partnership with formal education representatives from the provincial, national and international education community including but not limited to school boards, superintendents, teachers, school business officials and parent councils;**
- **establish regular and frequent mechanisms for formal liaison with Federal, Provincial and Municipal governing authorities, and administrative entities related to such authorities, in order to identify opportunities for cooperation, interface on educational issues, advance the cause, and represent the views of its members on matters of mutual interest and concern;**
- **fulfill the association’s legal mandate to raise awareness and interest of educational issues while generally promoting the cause of public education.**

Rationale:

Commencing in 2014 through to 2019, the Association presented segments of its consolidated policy statements (under the previously identified headings) for further consideration and adoption by the general membership during resolutions sessions hosted during our annual convention. A consolidated policy statement on “external organizations” was in development as of 2019 but not presented to the membership. Pandemic response limited the conduct of resolutions sessions during the 2021 and 2022 convention cycles.

At its meeting of January 20, 2023, Resolutions and Policy Committee convened for the purpose of reviewing MSBA’s standing consolidated policy statements. The need to develop and implement a consolidated policy statement on “external organizations” was recommended by the Committee in order to complete the adoption

of a comprehensive policy framework to guide future association advocacy and engagement.

MSBA staff therefore undertook drafting of such a statement, as is presented under this resolution. The Resolutions and Policy Committee subsequently approved this draft as of January 29, 2023.

It is intended that this draft policy statement incorporates the sole existing policy that was formerly included under this “external organizations” heading, which is “The Manitoba School Boards Association supports school level advisory committees or parent councils, and encourages their greater participation and collaboration in educational issues.”

The proposed consolidated statement addresses a variety of partnerships and establishes a clear path forward for engagement on a variety of fronts with external organizations whose mutual interests intersect with the mandates of both the Association and its general membership.

COMMUNITY LIVING ASSOCIATIONS FUNDING SUPPORT EO-04-23
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the Government of Manitoba, Department of Families, to enhance funding support for Community Living Associations that serve critical needs across our province.

Rationale:

Each year, Community Living Associations across Manitoba inject millions of dollars into our communities. Every month, purchases of groceries in local stores, purchases of housing supplies locally, as well as fuel and vehicle maintenance involves reliance and services obtained directly from local vendors.

Community Living Associations employ thousands of people and pay property taxes on commercial properties and also for residential properties. This infrastructure is crucial to support their clients, while providing successful transition from secondary school to community for special needs pupils and while also operating meaningful employment and job training for hundreds of youths and adults with intellectual disabilities following graduation.

Many Community Living Associations receive funding from the Government of Manitoba, Department of Families, without which they could not operate. Starting in 2012, provincial funding has been inadequate to meet operational needs. On average, wages for workers in the Community Living sector are tied to the minimum wage. The negative impact of this unchanged funding is exacerbated by inflationary increases on essential goods and resources. Of additional concern, recent minimum wage increases and mandatory vacation pay costs resulting from new provincial and federal statutory holidays are not covered, with commensurate increased funding.

The budget that has been received to operate each individual home for Community Living clients has therefore steadily eroded over the past decade. In the coming Fiscal Year, scores of houses will incur significant operating deficits.

While Community Living Associations have increasingly relied on the voluntarism and goodwill of community members, this model is not sustainable. Without an upward revision of funding from the provincial government Community Living Associations will soon be unable to meet their clients’ needs. These clients are youth and adults with intellectual disabilities who are classified under provincial law as “vulnerable persons”. They do not, in most cases, find their own “voice” to share their needs and concerns with politicians. Many have families that have spent their entire lives fighting for every bit of help and support they can get. A heartbreaking reality is that these same families too often fear for what will happen when they are not able to advocate for their family, given aging parental care and other family support.

Community Living Associations have therefore issued a broad appeal for help to make adequate funding for the programs and resources they offer to vulnerable people an election issue and priority for Provincial political parties. MSBA Provincial Executive therefore entreats its membership to support this resolution to better support those in our community who desperately need enhanced funding support this coming year.